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LETTER DATED 13 DECEMBER 1996 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the statement by the President of the Security Council dated 4 December 1996 (S/PRST/1996/46), welcoming the Peace Agreement signed by the Government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone in Abidjan on 30 November 1996. In that statement, the Security Council expressed, inter alia, its intention to continue to support the development of peace and democracy in Sierra Leone, in particular the need for a successful process of demobilization and reintegration of former combatants. It also expressed its readiness to assist in this process.

In this connection, I am forwarding herewith to the Security Council two letters addressed to me by the President of Sierra Leone, H.E. Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, and by the leader of the Revolutionary United Front, Mr. Foday Saybana Sankoh, which I received on 11 and 13 December 1996 respectively. In these letters, President Kabbah and Mr. Sankoh request the United Nations to provide, in accordance with the terms of the Peace Agreement, neutral international observers to monitor the peace in Sierra Leone.

It would be my intention, subject to the concurrence of the Security Council, to send an assessment mission to Sierra Leone to develop recommendations on ways in which the United Nations could assist in this regard.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

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Annex I

Letter dated 9 December 1996 from the President of Sierra Leone addressed to the Secretary-General

RE: Provision of neutral peace observers

In accordance with the terms of the Peace Agreement signed by the Government of Sierra Leone and the Revolutionary United Front on Saturday, 30 November 1996, I have great pleasure in requesting you to assist in providing neutral international observers to monitor the peace in Sierra Leone. It is my hope that these observers will be provided within the shortest possible time to assure that the implementation of the Peace Agreement is not impeded.

While thanking you and the United Nations for the valuable contribution made to the entire peace process in Sierra Leone, I trust that this matter will receive your most urgent attention and cooperation.

(Signed) Alhaji Dr. Ahmad Tejan KABBAH
President of the
Republic of Sierra Leone

Annex II

Letter dated 30 November 1996 from the leader of the Revolutionary United Front of Sierra Leone addressed to the Secretary-General

RE: Provision of neutral peace observers

In accordance with the terms of the Peace Agreement signed by our two parties in Abidjan today, Saturday, 30 November 1996, we have great pleasure in requesting you to assist in providing neutral international observers to monitor the peace in Sierra Leone. It is our expectation that these observers will be provided within the shortest possible time to assure that the implementation of the Peace Agreement is not impeded.

While thanking you and your Organization for the valuable contribution made to the entire peace process in Sierra Leone, it is our fervent hope that this matter will receive your most urgent attention and cooperation.

(Signed) Foday Saybana SANKOH
Leader, Revolutionary United
Front of Sierra Leone